



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES **OF THE REGULAR MEETING** **OF JUNE 2, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Dedie Ward, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Staff
Alexia Moore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the minutes of May 26, 2004 were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported that in the Tuesday, June 1, 2004, issue of the Los Angeles Times, the "Dear Abby" column featured updated information for the foster child who had lived in an emergency shelter for seven months prior to being placed in a foster home a week before her eighteenth birthday. The article advised that in addition to contacting their local YWCA, youth faced with similar housing problems and have difficulty navigating the system can also contact the California Foster Care System or the Child Welfare League of America for assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund's is \$606.71. Chair Montano reminded Commissioners that the Commission's dues for the month of June are due.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

No Correspondence or reports

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

CRA – Ladera House

Commissioner Moore visited this facility at 7107 Glasgow Way, Los Angeles on May 13th; the Director was George Igi and the escort was Gloria Lynn. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Area of concern: the written menu and individual's rights were not posted.

Dream Home Care #1

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 3720 Gardenia Avenue, Long Beach, on May 18th; the Director was C. Manalang and Commissioner Bacio was escorted by Helen Griffith. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern.

Dream Home Care #2

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 3720 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, on May 18th; the Director was C. Manalang and the escort was Levy. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Area of concern: one of the smoke detectors needed a battery.

CRA – Newell House

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 4740 – 152nd Street, Lawndale, on May 20th. As there was no one home at the time, no inspection was made.

House of Bethesda

Commissioner Bacio visited this facility at 14614 Firmona Avenue, Lawndale, on May 20th and was escorted by Ms. Adimora. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern.

New Outlook Boy's Home

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility at 1901 West 41st Place, Los Angeles on May 25th. As there was no one home at the time, no inspection was made.

O'Conner/Atkins Home

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility at 2010 West 41st Drive, Los Angeles, on May 25th. As there was no one home at the time, no inspection was made.

Children Are Our Future – Searcy House

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 10336 Variel Street, Chatsworth, on May 13th; the Director was Mike Linqata and the escort was M. McDonald. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern. As with all the homes owned by this agency, this home has a therapy program and the juveniles attend various music/art programs at Cal-State Northridge.

Children Are Our Future – Chatsworth

Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 10928 Remmet Avenue, Chatsworth, on May 13th; the Director was Mike Linqata and the escort was Marilyn Weatherspoon. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Children Are Our Future – Harvey House

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 19600 Superior Street, Northridge, on May 17th; the Director was Mike Linqata and the escort was Eric Duheaney. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Children Are Our Future - Legg House

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 19110 Merion Drive, Northridge, on May 17th; the Director was Mike Linquata and the escort was Patricia Pasquiz. This facility had new carpet, was newly painted and was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Children Are Our Future – West Hills

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 8569 Faust Avenue, West Hills on May 20th; the Director was Mike Linquata and the escort was A. Lang. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Children Are Our Future – Kezios

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 20440 Keawick Avenue, Canoga Park, on May 20th; the Director was Mike Linquata and the escort was Paul Mac Farland. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Children Are Our Future – San Jose House

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility at 10710 Melvin Avenue, Northridge, on May 24th; the Director was Mike Linquata and the escort was Francis Beaver. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

So. Bay Bright Future #1

Chair Montano visited this facility at 141 South Mesa Street, San Pedro, on May 17th, the Director was Levette Hill and Chair Montano was escorted by Aneke. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Areas of concern: the house rules were not posted and Chair Montano noted that this facility needs two bathrooms.

CRA/Masada – Orleans House

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility at 973 – 21st Street, San Pedro, on May 17th and were escorted by Gregory Jacob. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Dream Home Care #3

Chair Montano visited this facility at 3590 Gaviota Avenue, Long Beach, on May 20th and was escorted by Ledy Manalana. This facility was clean and well maintained with **an overall rating of satisfactory** with no areas of concern.

Girls & Boys Town – So. Calif.

Chair Montano visited this facility at 350 West Wardlow Road, Long Beach, on May 20th, and was escorted by Beth Holden. This facility was clean and well maintained with an **overall rating of satisfactory**. Area of concern: the fire extinguisher needs to be recharged.

Little People World #1

Chair Montano visited this facility at 727 South Harris Avenue, Compton, on May 24th. This facility was extremely clean and very well maintained with an **overall rating of excellent** with no areas of concern.

Creative Learning Institute #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility at 1702 N. Wilmington Avenue, Compton, on May 24th and were escorted by Marcella Montgomery. The **entire house and yard were filthy and had many health and safety hazards; the overall rating is grossly unsatisfactory**. Areas of concern: the entire house permeated with foul odors; kitchen dirty with no food stocks or snacks available; insufficient supply of dishes and utensils; bucket under leaking kitchen sink drain was also being used to catch kitchen refuse; kitchen tiles broken; oven very dirty; food storage area dirty; stairway banister loose; window blinds broken; paint on dining room ceiling peeling badly; no first aid kit available; swimming pool area slippery and pool overgrown with algae; and the cap on the main cleanout pipe of the house was off and sewage was leaking into the yard. A collapsing wooden structure in the backyard was filled with trash and a fire hazard concern; no disaster drills are conducted and no records available; trash cans not secured; staff was unfamiliar with needs of juvenile residents; furniture torn; and the required documents (home's license, daily activities schedule) were not posted.

Commissioners were so shocked by conditions at this facility that they called B. Eugene Romig, Board of Supervisors' Executive Office, and asked him to report this matter to the proper authorities. Mr. Romig contacted the County Business License Inter-Departmental Coordination Group, City of Compton Building and Safety, Code Enforcement, and the Compton Fire

Department. Mr. Romig was advised that the City of Compton would send investigators out to the facility immediately. In addition, Mr. Romig contacted Richard Townsend of County Counsel, who advised him that Lari Sheehan, Chief Administrative Office, would be contacting the Department of Children and Family Services. Mr. Townsend commented that the matter would ultimately be handled by the Chief Administrative Office's Group Home Task Force.

Several Commissioners expressed an interest in having a representative from the Group Home Task Force to address the Commission; Mr. Romig will follow-up and report back to the Commission. Chair Montano advised that she is waiting for a call back from Carl Gallucci regarding conditions at this group home.

NOTE: Chair Montano advised that she and Commissioner Bacio, along with Dr. Richard Rogers of DCFS, Doris Reed of the Auditor Controller's Group Home Services, and Erick Page visited this facility in January 2003 and witnessed these same infractions, which are still evident.

Commissioner Hammagren noted that although 5 of the 6 female juveniles at the facility appeared to be acting out, there was one young girl that kept to herself and was in her room working on her college applications. Commissioner Hammagren advised that Commissioner Moore is a member of an organization that gives scholarships to deserving students and has volunteered to look into helping this young girl.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office, advised that new chairs for the Sybil Brand Commission office have been authorized and he is proceeding with his plan to have the Commission office painted, etc. in time for Sheriff Baca's visit on July 21st.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates/Dedie Ward
Staff, Commission Services